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March 7, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
United State Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W. Washington DC 20240

RE: Offshore Oil and Gas leasing- California Outer Continental Shelf

Dear Secretary Zinke:

The County has a substantial history of involvement and opposition to leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for oil and gas development. Major issues involve potential adverse impacts to the land and marine environment, air quality, economic impacts on commercial and recreational fishing, oil spill impacts and tourism. These concerns are reflected in a number of adopted County plans and policies including the Local Coastal Program and the County Offshore Energy Element.

There are no current oil and gas exploration or extraction facilities directly offshore the coast of San Luis Obispo County. However, our county has had a front row seat on the issues and activities associated with off shore oil experienced by our neighbor to the south- Santa Barbara County. While San Luis Obispo County has never had to grapple with a major off shore oil disaster, such as the oil spill that occurred in 2015 north of Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County, we have had extensive experience dealing with the calamitous aftermath of oil company negligence and equipment failure resulting in the massive clean-ups of the Guadalupe Dunes Oil Field and the town of Avila Beach.

It is important to note that in 1986, a voter initiative, "Measure A," was approved by the voters of San Luis Obispo County and is now a part of the County's Local Coastal Program. Measure A requires that any permit or authorization allowing the

development or establishment of any support facility for off shore oil and gas activity, must be approved by a majority of voters at a special or general election. The passage of Measure A in 1986 and subsequent denial by the voters of an application by Shell Oil was an excellent gauge by which to judge the concerns and will of the citizens of San Luis Obispo County, and those concerns run just as strongly today.

While improvements have been made in offshore drilling technology and oil transport and delivery, substantial risks and these risks far outweigh the potential benefits.

A substantial portion of the economy of San Luis Obispo County relies on tourism. These tourism dollars reflect visitors enjoying the beaches, natural scenic beauty and natural resources that exemplify San Luis Obispo County. In addition, survey after survey of the residents of San Luis Obispo County place the "quality of life" and the "environment" as some of the top reasons for living in this area. The effects of off shore oil exploration and extraction would create a grave risk to these resources and further threaten commercial and recreational fishing off the coast and the overall quality of life for our citizens.

The County of San Luis Obispo is opposed to any expansion of oil and gas exploration or extraction off our coastline.

We recognize the challenge facing the nation and the world in addressing global climate change and reducing our dependence on oil and other fossil fuels. This is why we are supportive of a comprehensive energy plan that includes development of clean renewable energy in an environmentally balanced manner.

San Luis Obispo County looks forward to working with the Department of the Interior in their development of an offshore energy plan that provides for needed energy while ensuring protection of our important natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this significant issue.

Sincerely,

ADAM HILL

Vice -Chair, Board of Supervisors

c - Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Honorable Kamala Harris
Honorable Salud Carbajal
County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors
Dan Buckshi, San Luis Obispo County Administrative Officer
Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group
Paul Yoder and Karen Lange, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih